Why Study Garden Design at SRUC?

- Are you interested in the design of our landscapes, or have a practical eye for construction?
- Do you wish to develop your knowledge of plants, or improve your graphical skills?
- Do you have a creative flair for 3 dimensional problem solving, or enjoy managing multi-skilled projects?
- Maybe you wish to improve your planting plans, or simply enjoy working with people?
- Perhaps you want to run your own business, or work in historical recreation projects?

Then Garden Design is the course for you!

Garden design provides us with a rich creative environment blending many skills – from the practical knowledge of construction and project management to the creative elements involved in accomplished design and the use of horticultural expertise. What other industry can give an individual the opportunity to develop abilities in so many diverse areas?

Garden Design is a discipline that requires attention to detail, plant knowledge, technical competence and artistic flair. It is recognised as a profession in its own right and its influence on our lives has spread from our small private gardens into the wider landscapes and grander designs of more public places. The courses offered by SRUC approach Garden Design very firmly from the perspective of developing a strong appreciation, understanding and knowledge of horticulture.

Which Courses Where?

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<th>Aberdeen</th>
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<th>Barony</th>
<th>Edinburgh</th>
<th>Elmwood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSc/BSc (Hons) Garden and Greenspace Design</td>
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<td>HND Garden Design</td>
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HND Garden Design

The first year of the course is designed to give you a broad introduction to garden design and the basic plant knowledge and practical skills you will need. You will study 15 different "modules" (subjects).

Course Content – Year 1:

- Getting Started in Business
- Constructing Hard Landscape Features
- Design Process and Composition in the Landscape
- Plant Protection
- Garden Design Concepts
- Horticultural Practices
- Soil Management
- Plant Growth and Development
- Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use
- Information Technology: Application Software 1
- Landscape Graphics
- Planting Design
- Horticultural Mechanisation Principles
- Graded Unit 1 (exam)

Example first year module: Horticulture: Plant Recognition and Use

This module is about learning to use botanical terminology to identify plants; identification of plant species and their cultivation requirements and uses. You will investigate a group of plants of your choice in relation to their actual & potential uses.
Course Content

HND Garden Design

The second year is still quite broad (still 15 subjects), but you will begin to deepen your knowledge in relevant areas. Graded Units begin to establish the skills that you will need for degree level study. A key feature of the second year is the design and production of a show garden, which is usually presented for judging at Gardening Scotland.

Course Content – Year 2:

- Fundamentals of Landscape Surveying
- Garden Design Practice
- Garden Design Skills
- IT in Landscape Design and Management
- Landscape Design History
- Landscape Management and Maintenance
- Landscape Practices
- Plants for Gardens: Specialised Plantings
- Show Gardens: Design and Construction
- Water Gardens: Design and Construction
- Garden Design Graded Unit 2 (project)
- Garden Design Graded Unit 3 (exam)

Students who successfully complete the HND can apply to join year 3 of the BSc/BSc (Hons) Garden and Greenspace Design degree course.
Example second year module: Show Gardens: Design and Construction

In this module you will work through the process of staging a show garden including application, planning and project management as well as design. As a group, you will design a show garden and contribute to its construction and display at a horticultural show, usually Gardening Scotland.

Design, Build, Show, Award
Course Content

BSc Garden and Greenspace Design

In year 3 you will study to a greater level of detail and are required to undertake more independent study. You will study 8 different modules, two of which are electives which allow you to tailor your course to areas that interest you. Modules such as International Design Project, and Landscape Horticulture will not only ensure that you have the skills highly relevant to the workplace in this sector, but also the skills that will be of use to you in year 4 as you undertake your Honours research project.

Course Content – Year 3:

Core Modules
- Advanced Techniques in Digital Media
- Environmental Science for Garden and Greenspace Design
- International Design Project
- Landscape Horticulture
- Research Skills and Data Analysis
- World Climate Zones and Ornamental Plants

Choice of Elective Modules (choose 2)
- Climate Change and the Global Environment
- Ecology: Management and Impacts
- Field Course – Garden Design / Horticulture
- Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing
- Ornamental Plant Production
- Ethnobotany
- Horticultural Plant Physiology
- Land and Habitat Restoration

Example third year module:
International Design Project

You'll undertake an international Garden Design project in your third year. This will be a real life case study. You will need to produce a design for a project, normally abroad, where you will need to take into account different climatic, environmental, social and cultural conditions. This may be accomplished through a study trip abroad, but equally could be incorporated in a programme for an exchange semester.
Course Content

BSc (Hons) Garden and Greenspace Design

In your 4th year you will undertake an extensive piece of individual research, investigating a subject of your own choice. This ‘Honours Project’ gives you the opportunity to work with supervisors from across SRUC, experts in their field actively conducting research or providing consultancy. Conducting your own research project allows you to develop a wealth of skills as well as building specialist knowledge, all of which will be relevant to your future employment.

4 years full-time.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Core Modules</th>
<th>Choice of Elective Modules (choose 1)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Advanced Design Solutions</td>
<td>• Action for Biodiversity</td>
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<td>• Environmental Psychology and Greenspace Design</td>
<td>• Carbon Management</td>
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<td>• Garden and Open Space Management</td>
<td>• Global Horticulture</td>
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<td>• Professional Practice and Project Management</td>
<td>• Heritage Garden Conservation</td>
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<td>• Honours Project</td>
<td>• Land-based Environmental Issues</td>
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<td>• Multi-purpose Woodland Management</td>
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<td>• Sustainable Environmental Management</td>
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Example fourth year module:
Environmental Psychology and Greenspace Design

The design of our environment has an important role to play in social welfare and by considering landscape composition, garden designers are making places for communities and individuals to live in healthily. Green infrastructure which includes greenspaces, park systems (open space systems) and greenways is increasingly being considered by planners in urban and rural areas. This module examines how design and use of plants can affect the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Urban regeneration, placemaking, personal space and enclosure, and factors such as noise pollution will also be discussed.
What’s the Course Like?

Teaching is not confined just to the classroom. Visits are mixed and varied. New gardens are seen under construction to help students understand the groundwork that occurs when creating a garden. Mature gardens are visited to observe and analyse good design and the effects of time. Plants are studied in situ, in gardens and on campus to provide students with the essential knowledge required to work in the industry. Practical horticultural sessions are mixed with drawing theory and study tours can take us away from Scotland to other areas of the UK and further afield.

The HNC introduces you to the many facets of garden design which include design, plant knowledge, hard landscaping and business. You will carry out guided design work in a studio setting, real projects with real clients, visit plant nurseries, gardens and hard landscape suppliers, go for tutor-led walks around the campus and botanic gardens to learn plant identification, and undertake practical hands-on horticulture.

The HND develops your competence in communication with clients and other professionals, and in organising and carrying through projects. You will design in a range of garden styles, and prepare plans, construction details and planting plans for real clients from the private and public/community sectors. Show garden design and construction as a team, practical construction projects, such as ponds and decking and visits to a range landscapes and gardens are all integral parts of the course. You will use computer-aided design (CAD) and learn about plants for specialised plantings, landscape design history, landscape management, and how to get started in business.

Degree years will broaden and deepen your knowledge and encourage the exploration and production of more ambitious designs. You will become proficient in detailed contextualised design, and will undertake a project abroad as part of the third year.

Student Voice

Penny Wright is studying the BSc (Hons) Garden and Greenspace Design course part-time.

“I think horticulture and garden design offer a wide range of career opportunities within the green collar industry. My plan is to carry on working on community and council projects, and I have also started my own small Garden Design business, and completed my first big full garden design last summer.”
Career Prospects

The landscape and garden industry is buoyant and there are many opportunities for successful students in the public and private sectors both within the UK and internationally.

Employment prospects with HNC include working for landscape companies and horticultural enterprises, often providing design input into their projects. Some students with previous relevant experience go straight into designing gardens and setting up their own business, and often come back to take more advanced HND modules while working.

With an HND in Garden Design, you will be well equipped with the basic knowledge and skills to enter the garden design profession. Mostly, students with HND go on to set up successful independent garden design businesses; some work with other garden designers in small companies, or for landscaping companies, or with consortia involving designers and other landscape professionals where strong plant knowledge and attention to detail in design will be valued. Others go on to higher qualifications in garden design or landscape architecture.

Opportunities for employment within industry are increased by continuing on the course to achieve the degree. Employment opportunities are enhanced by SRUC’s strong links with the national and international landscape and horticultural industry which means that many employers approach SRUC directly when seeking to recruit new staff.

Employment prospects for degree graduates include working in community regeneration organisations, local Government and non-governmental organisations with a greenspace agenda.

Student Voice

“The course covered a wide range of subjects which are relevant to the design industry as a whole and provides a solid base for entering the profession.

The highlight of my time at SRUC was designing a show garden and building it with my fellow students at Gardening Scotland. The garden won a Silver Gilt medal and I achieved the Best New Show Garden Designer Award.”

Colin Bell

www.sruc.ac.uk/blog/studentprofiles
Contact Us

For more specific course information, please feel free to contact our lecturing staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SRUC Edinburgh Campus:</th>
<th>e: <a href="mailto:douglas.coltart@sruc.ac.uk">douglas.coltart@sruc.ac.uk</a></th>
<th>t: 0131 535 4308</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Coltart</td>
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Entry Requirements

Minimum entry requirements for the BSc/BSc (Hons) Garden and Greenspace Design:
Typically four Scottish Highers/Irish Leaving Certificate subjects at Higher level (BBCC) or three A-Levels (BCC), preferably to include a science subject or Geography.

Minimum entry requirements for HND Garden Design:
Typically two Scottish Highers/Irish Leaving Certificate subjects at Higher level (CC) or one A-Level pass, preferably to include a Science subject or Geography.

A wide range of alternative qualifications are given sympathetic consideration for entry e.g. NC Landscape or Horticulture, and other Horticulture or Landscape related qualifications. Motivation, determination and relevant previous experience are recognised as alternatives to formal qualification; applications are particularly welcome from mature applicants.

Advanced entry into Year 2 or 3 may be possible with a highly relevant HND, Foundation Degree or similar qualification.

Progression from other SRUC courses: Those with NC or similar qualifications from SRUC in broadly related areas, who have a passion for Garden Design, are encouraged to discuss an application to the HND course. Those who have studied the HNC Horticulture at the Ayr Campus (only) are eligible to apply for Year 2 entry to the HND or degree in Garden Design.
How to Apply

Application for full-time study on HNC, HND and degree (BA/BSc) courses is through UCAS (www.ucas.ac.uk). Please consult our website or prospectus for further details.

**Codes for UCAS application are as follows:**
- Institution code name: SRUC
- Institution code: S01
- Campus code: Z (Edinburgh)
- HND Garden Design 092W HND/GD
- BSc/BSc (Hons) Garden and Greenspace Design K301 BSc/GGD

Those wishing to study part-time will need to contact SRUC directly or apply on-line via the SRUC website at [www.sruc.ac.uk/courses](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/courses).

*The BSc/BSc (Hons) Garden and Greenspace Design degree is awarded by the University of Glasgow.*
About Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC)

2012 saw the merger of Scotland’s four land-based institutions: Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge Colleges and the Scottish Agricultural College. They now form Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) – the largest institution of its kind in Europe.

SRUC is an unusual organisation. Like a University, we have expertise in the areas of Education and Research, but in addition we also offer unrivalled links with industry through our Consultancy division and business services. We don’t just offer undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses but we offer a full range of programmes at all levels from access courses and vocational studies through to PhDs.

We try to offer opportunities to study at whatever level is appropriate for you to join us at, and hope that you will stay with us, seamlessly progressing through educational levels and qualifications, until you have reached or exceeded your educational goal. You will find we offer courses which all link to the ways in which we make use of the land and natural resources around us – from agriculture and food production, the science that supports those industries, the way we interact with and support the environment around us, the business and industry which relies on these resources, to how we use outdoor space and the countryside in our recreation and leisure time.

SRUC comprises 6 campuses in locations around Scotland:

- **SRUC Aberdeen**
  - Contact: aberdeen@sruc.ac.uk
  - Website: www.sruc.ac.uk/aberdeen

- **SRUC Ayr**
  - Contact: ayr@sruc.ac.uk
  - Website: www.sruc.ac.uk/ayr

- **SRUC Barony**
  - Contact: barony@sruc.ac.uk
  - Website: www.sruc.ac.uk/barony

- **SRUC Edinburgh**
  - Contact: edinburgh@sruc.ac.uk
  - Website: www.sruc.ac.uk/edinburgh

- **SRUC Elmwood**
  - Contact: elmwood@sruc.ac.uk
  - Website: www.sruc.ac.uk/elmwood

- **SRUC Oatridge**
  - Contact: oatridge@sruc.ac.uk
  - Website: www.sruc.ac.uk/oatridge
Out and About

Study Visits

Site visits and practical skills are a large component of the course. From making use of our own campuses and facilities, to visits to nurseries, industry sites, and gardens, students are out and about a great deal in all years of the course. Our trips bring students into contact with leading members of the Horticulture and Garden Design World, and allow students to gain valuable contacts and insights into all aspects of the industry.

Study Tour

Study tour opportunities are offered in first and third years of the course. The first year study tour is normally UK-based and takes in a wide variety of examples. Previous trips have included visits around Scotland and visits to Yorkshire. The third year study tour is normally international, and sometimes ties in with the international garden design project. Previous cohorts have visited Germany and Slovakia where students have worked with communities and organisations, re-designing the spaces in which they live.
Related Courses

SRUC offer courses in the following areas which may also be of interest. Please take a look at our website for further information:

- Horticulture (NC, SVQ, HNC, HND, Degree)
- Horticulture with Plantsmanship (HND, Degree)
- Landscape Management / Landscaping (NC, SVQ, HNC)

www.sruc.ac.uk/courses
Timetable

First and second years are broad and varied. You will study 15 “modules” (different subjects) each year. Each module normally has half a day of contact-time per week for a 10 week term. Some of this contact time will be lectures and some will be group work, visiting speakers, site visits, practical work, presentations, seminars, etc. You will, of course, have coursework and assignments to do outside the contact time as well.

In your 3rd and 4th year you will study 8 modules per year. Modules in degree years are divided between 2 semesters, so you will study half a day per week for 13 weeks for each module and will have an examination at the end of the semester. During the degree years there is an even greater emphasis on self-study and you will be given assignments to undertake in your own time, outside of the contact hours.

You will see from the course content information that some modules are “core” (compulsory) while some are electives. Leaving you a choice of elective modules allows you to tailor your course to your own areas of interest.

Modes of Study

This course can be studied full-time or part-time. Part time study usually involves studying at half the pace of full-time, making it possible to juggle work or other commitments at the same time as studying.
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Marketing and Student Recruitment Officer</th>
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<th>E:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>SRUC Aberdeen, Craibstone Estate</td>
<td>(01224) 711189</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aberdeen@sruc.ac.uk">aberdeen@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayr</td>
<td>SRUC Ayr, Riverside Campus</td>
<td>(01292) 886196</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ayr@sruc.ac.uk">ayr@sruc.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>Barony</td>
<td>SRUC Barony, Parkgate</td>
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<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>SRUC Edinburgh, King's Buildings</td>
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<td>Elmwood</td>
<td>SRUC Elmwood, Cupar</td>
<td>(01334) 658800</td>
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<td>Oatridge</td>
<td>SRUC Oatridge, Ecclesmachan</td>
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For more information about open days, visit our website: [www.sruc.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/opendays)

If you are unable to attend one of the scheduled Open Days, please contact us so that we can make alternative arrangements for you to visit. Further information is available from the local campus Marketing and Student Recruitment Office.

www.sruc.ac.uk/education